REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and is responsive to the Final Office Action of October 25, 2007, in which claims 1-30 are presently pending. Of those, claims 1-13, 15-28 and 30 have now been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the publication of Wolfgang Hoscheck, entitled "The Web Service Discovery Architecture," November 2002, Int'l. IEEE/ACM Supercomputing Conference (SC 2002) Baltimore, USA, in view of the publication entitled "Specification for the Representation of CIM in XML" (May 2, 2002) by the Distributed Management Task Force (DTMF). In addition, claims 14 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoscheck, in view of DTMF, and further in view of U.S. Patent 7,062,516 to Bhat. For the following reasons, however, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 8 and 23 have been cancelled, with the subject matter thereof now incorporated into independent claims 1 and 16, respectively. Thus, the claims now more specifically recite both mapping rules and a flexible framework engine for applying the same. In addition, claims 15 and 30 are amended to maintain consistency with respect to the term "framework engine." Finally, claim 9, 10, 24 and 25 are amended to change the dependencies thereof to depend directly from the respective independent claims 1 and 16.

In the previous Office Action, it was pointed out that with respect to the Hoscheck reference, Hoscheck ultimately teaches no more than was already known about the OSGA as of the time of publication, and thus Hoscheck does not propose, teach or suggest any novel modifications to the OSGA as was originally set forth by the OSGA developers. That is, the state of the OSGA prior to the present invention was simply that it was

possible to map a Grid Service Handle (i.e., a service link) to a Grid Service Reference (i.e., a description of the service). In contrast, the claimed invention is directed toward mapping OSGA service data descriptions to a native resource representation thereof. Additionally, prior to the claimed invention, it was left to a service developer to design code for mapping a service's service data description (i.e., GSR) to the "true" native resources representation and its access mechanisms. The claims of the application are directed to defining and implementing standard mapping rules of service data descriptions to the native resource representations thereof to reduce the problem of complexity and inflexibility in mapping by the service developer. Hoscheck, on the other hand, simply summarizes mapping of service links to service descriptions in the OSGA as originally proposed.

Now, in the present Final Office Action, the Examiner cited the DTMF publication as teaching a set of standard mapping rules implemented through the clamed OSDML configured to support mapping through extensible language features, and in particular, mapping Common Information Model (CIM) information in XML. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the Hoscheck and DTMF publications still fail to teach each of the claim elements as now amended because neither teaches a flexible framework engine for processing rules and mappings defined by the OSDML.

In support of the present rejection as pertaining to this feature, the Examiner has taken the position that Hoscheck discloses on page 11, table 2 the claimed "defining a flexible framework engine for processing rules and mappings defined by said OSDML." However, a review of this portion of Hoscheck reveals that it is nothing more than a table that presents a feature-by-feature comparison of various OSGA concepts with WSDA (Web Services Discovery Architecture) concepts. There is no mention therein of any type of flexible engine that <u>processes</u> a defined set of mapping rules for service data descriptions in a service-oriented architecture and <u>implements</u> the same through an OSGA service data mapping language (OSDML) that maps OSGA service data to a .

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native resource representation thereof, through extensible language features. Since this claim element is not taught either alone or in combination by any of the references of record, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are not obvious in view of the same.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of the outstanding §103 rejections of the remaining claims have now been overcome, and it is respectfully requested that the same be withdrawn.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0458 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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